

PARISH NEWS

May 2008

8:30 am – Worship at St Matthew w/ Holy Communion May 4
9:30 am – Sunday Schools at both Churches
10:30 am – Worship at Immanuel w/ Holy Communion May 4

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St. Matthew Women

The St. Matthew WELCA have changed their monthly Bible Study date in May to May 18th.

The theme will be "Blessings in the Midst of Suffering".

DOOR OFFERING - MAY 4 – FOR CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - VILLAGE EDUCATION PROJECT

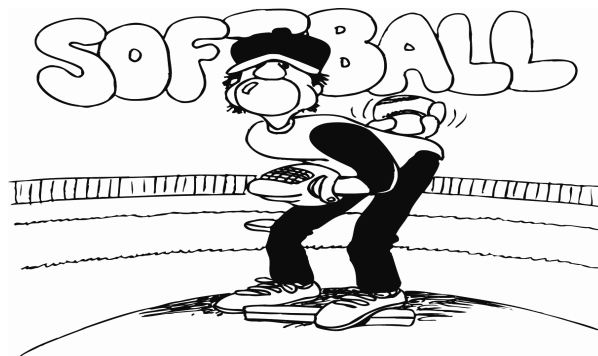
Last year, with the help of Thrivent, we sent \$537 to enable approximately 27 children to attend primary school run by the parents and Lutheran Church in C.A.R. If we raise \$400 this year, Thrivent will match our gift with \$400, hopefully allowing 40 children to attend school. Pray for the continued success of the schools and for an end to the civil unrest in the country. In their Sango language "Maboko na maboko" means "Hand in Hand." **Hand in hand, we walk together** so that the children can go to school. Thanks for your partnership!

In April \$135.00 was collected.



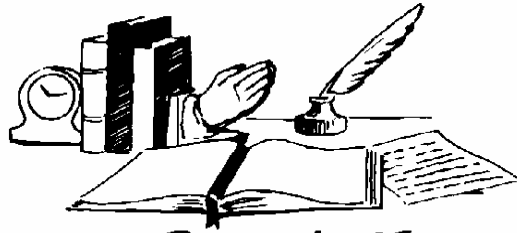
**KODY KLIEBERT AND JONATHAN AND BILLY WARD
WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE WOMEN OF ST. MATTHEW
LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR THE HARD WORK AND LOVE PUT INTO THEIR
MOST THOUGHTFUL
GRADUATION GIFT. THANK YOU**

The volunteers of Bread Partners want to thank you for the food that you donated to us from your Food Drive. Donations such as yours make it possible for us to continue our mission of feeding the poor in our area. We deliver food to: Somerville, Meyersville, Earlywind Store, Goodwill, Chappell Hill, Sauney Stand, New Life Church, Independence and Fisher and Loaves, Buton, serving 1,002 individuals a week. We appreciated your generosity.



Church Softball

Will begin play after Mother's Day. Players are needed. Both young (under 25) and older players. Call Ronnie Bothe: home (979) 836-6469 work (979) 836-2391



the Pastor's Notes

Pastor's Letter Pray without Ceasing

1Thessalonians 5: ¹⁶ *Rejoice always,* ¹⁷ **pray without ceasing,** ¹⁸ *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Prayer is a fundamental building block of our life together in Christ. Every Sunday worship service includes prayer. We pray for God's grace and forgiveness, his love, and finally his Kingdom to come to our lives and to the whole world. I trust that you are praying at other times and in other places. Prayer does not need to be long, formal, "funny sounding," or even said out loud. As Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans: 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with **sighs too deep for words.** the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

We pray every week for those with physical, mental, or spiritual needs. We pray for members and for friends, extended family, and members of the community. God hears these prayers. God never tires of our prayers.

But, in **our** weakness, our prayers can get stale, routine, rote, and just going through the motions. We now have a number of people on the prayer list who have been on for a long time. They have chronic medical conditions, that, short of a miracle, will not be improved. They may continue to live with these conditions for many years.

Some churches put only the most recent prayer requests in the Sunday Bulletin for a month or so; and list those with long term need for prayer in the monthly newsletter. We may want to keep our current way of doing things, or come up with our own plan. Please tell a council member or Pastor Abbott how you

think we should list those we are praying for. These are questions we should consider carefully and prayerfully.
Peace

Jim

WANTED: volunteer to type about 5 pages into your computer. This is information about what confirmation students believe and was collected as part of a confirmation exercise that the pastors want to share. So, when finished, you would need to give the finished document on a disk or e-mail to Pastor Abbott.
-- also song lyrics for songs that we sing when we have services at the nursing homes.
-- probably 10 -12 songs.

Pastor Abbott on Vacation

Pastor Abbott will be on vacation until May 8.
For Pastoral Care call Pastor David Hansen of St John of Prairie Hill, 836-8666.

Sunday, April 20 we welcomed into the Lord's Family through the sacrament of Holy Baptism: Tyler Scott Norsworthy son of Joe and Kim Norsworthy.
His sponsors are: Thomas Norsworthy, Rhetta Holub, Crystal Tiedt

IMMANUEL

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MAY

Captain: Kim Hodde

4th – Pauline Wellmann, Wade Wellmann
11th – Pauline Hodges, Eugene Bothe, Stephen Joswiak
18th – Wade Wellmann, Tyler Eickenhorst, Ben Eickenhorst
25TH – Pauline Wellmann, Chase Coghlan, Colton Coghlan,
Larry Kieke

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR MAY

4th – Anna Rogers
11th – Kaley Joswiak
18th – Waylon Maxwell
25TH – Janna Ahlers

FLOWERS FOR MAY

4th – Patty & Wilburn Addicks
11th - Edna Petzolt & William Peters
18th - Wade Wellmann & Jason Hupe Families
25th – Richard & Barbara Hollis

ACOLYTES FOR MAY

4th –
11th – Anna Rogers
18th – Brianna Hupe
25th – Waylon Maxwell

ST MATTHEW

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MAY

Jim Studhalter, Captain (936-825-5244)
Hank Ward Family
Gary Randermann
Billy Scheffer – Communion Assistant

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR MAY

4th – Corene Neimeyer
11th – Stanley Sommer
18th – Alice Petty
25th – Kailey Studhalter

FLOWERS FOR MAY

4th – Edwin & Annie Mae Studhalter & Theckla Hofschneider
11th – Stanley & Ann Sommer, Samuel & Marie
18th – John & Mary Ulrich
25th – LaVerne Weiss, Sherri Finke, Sandra Duch & Families

ACOLYTES FOR MAY

11th – Kailey Studhalter

Fill cups for Communion: Debbie Brown &
Winnie Boriack

Wash Communion ware: Carol Koch & Annie Mae Studhalter

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
May Baptism



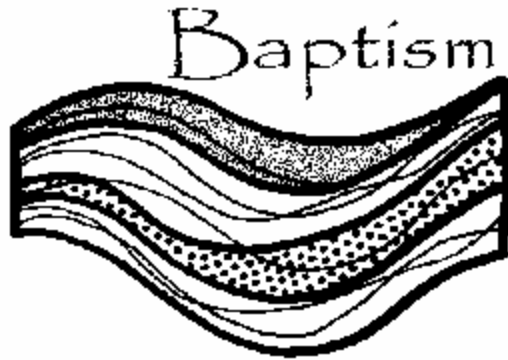
Danny Muegge	3
Leon Schwartz	11
Jamie Hohlt	11
Debbie Mueller	12
Kaylyn Lehmann	14
Amanda Lauter	16
Gordon Lohmeyer	18
Paul Buro	19
Rachel Niebuhr	20
Ella Buerger	22
Wilfred Blome	31

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
May Birthday



Diane Kelm	3
Emily Dana	3
Roger Duch	8
Marilyn Sommer	15
Jimmy Studhalter	18
Elwood Wehring	19
Johnnie Eckert	23
Dayton Wodrich	25
Mark Schwartz	25
Chelsea Kettler	25
Krystal Lehmann Glaeser	26
Wilfred Blome	29
Karen Lauter	31

Immanuel Lutheran Church
May Baptisms



Wilburn Addicks	
Abby Seale	2
Rodney Maurer	3
Hannah Koester	6
Raleigh Wellmann	10
Maggi Rau	11
Wade Rau	12
Alexis Chaudron	14
Gordon Lohmeyer	18
Sherri Bentke	21
Molli Rau	21
MacKenzie Maurer-McMillan	21
Shawn Bolenbarr	22
Misty Weiss	24
Jordan Benn	26
Craig Wiesepape	27
Stephen Joswiak	28
John Burleson IV	29
Don Koester	31

Immanuel Lutheran Church
May Birthdays



Louise Belle Loesch	2
Don Koester	3
Craig Wiesepape	7
Katie Welsh	7
Misty Weiss	9
Timothy Wellmann	12
Michael Bothe	13
Lance Bosse	15
Alan Siemsglusz	17
Leeroy Kramer	20
Stephen Maurer	20
Amanda Wellmann	21
Delvin Wellmann	24
Joshua Wiesepape	27
Steve Jasinski	29

Wanted: Servant leaders to travel to New Orleans for a week of work. Pastor Abbott plans to go to New Orleans. Join him and others from Texas and Louisiana as we travel from Lutherhill to New Orleans as we answer the call to put our faith into action. Hurricane Katrina was almost 3 years ago, but from the look of many places in new Orleans, the water just left. There is work for us to do. **DATES: July 6-11**
James 1:22 ¶ But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24 for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

You are free to go!

Immanuel - Second Saturday -

The Immanuel church council invites everyone to "Second Saturday" at 8:00 am Saturday, May10.

Breakfast provided.

We will have time for fellowship.

A signup sheet is in the parish house for anyone interested in making/bringing breakfast

Members in Nursing Homes shut in...

Lonie Addicks Margaret Heideman Lorena Randermann
 Louise Bell Loesch Ella Buerger Ruth Koester
 Harold Strang Mary Helen Cade Carrie Mae Wellmann
 Herbert Bosse

Those seeing doctors, continuing treatments and/or recovering from surgery...

Nina Ellermann Carrie Scheffer Barbara Hollis
 Erich Oberhoff Ann Sommer Bob Eccleston
 Bernice Sommerfield Trenton Stewart Patsy Schroeder
 Rudy Kelling

In our extended family...

Evelyn Wodrich
 Lily Vines & Ruby McLain— Aunts to Barbara Kramer & Dorothy Schulte
 Ollie Newmann – Roxanne Buro's aunt
 Henry Roesse – Roxanne Buro's father
 Marie Wilson - Sister of Rev. Rudy Kelling
 Gail Jessup— Niece of Erma Luetge
 Connie Hetzel – Friend of Frances Scheffer
 Albert & Annie Rybarski – Parents of Christie Schroeder
 Matt Rybarski – Brother of Christie Schroeder
 Beatrice Toll – Friend of Glenver & Frances Eilers
 Coy Kolkhorst – Son of Chris & Ann Marie
 Jeannine Schwartz – Wife of Rev. John Schwartz
 Carolyn McDowell— sister to Estella Delcoure's daughter-in-law
 Lenora Westermann – sister-in-law of Erma Luetge
 Leonard Dickschat – Cousin of Renee Lambert
 Lane Janner – friend of Finke family
 Dick Cocker – friend of Don & Glenda Bradley
 Ronald Wright – nephew of Fay Goodwin
 Little Red Hayes – friend of Don & Glenda Bradley
 Cheryl Hetrick – friend of Dwayne & Debbie Brown

Thanksgiving for improvements

Glenn Wehring Melva Ellermann Herbert Bosse
 William Henry Peters Christie Flencher Brett Coghlan
 Georgie Harper

In Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of

Larry Charles Graeber Bill Fowler Reinhold Herrmann
 Roy Lorenz



The ever-popular LSS Mother's Day Tea is coming up!

Ask your friends, relatives, co-workers, members of your congregation and neighbors to reflect upon their mothers' love, and honor them by making a donation to LSS children's ministries. You can host a real or 'virtual tea.' LSS provides the invitations; you provide the fun!

Lutheran Social Services

Krause Children's Center in Katy, which cares for children with severe emotional and behavioral problems, invites you to attend the 2008 Trinity Charter School Graduation Ceremony on May 30. Commencement begins at 1 pm, with a reception following. State Senator Glenn Hegar, a long-time Krause Center supporter, will deliver the commencement address. Please consider bringing one of the following items for the boys and girls at the Krause Center: notebook paper, #2 pencils, construction paper, Elmer's Glue, map pencils, pocket folders, graph paper, non-toxic markers. RSVP to Sharie Morris at (281) 392-7505.

The Village at Gleannlock Farms, the LSS senior community in North Houston, will host a dedication ceremony and open house on June 26. Located on Spring Cypress Road and I-249, the continuing care community features over 130 independent living apartments and cottages, plus 80 residences for seniors requiring assisted living, skilled care or memory support. For more information, go to www.LSSS.org and click on Seniors.

Lutheran Social Services

Spring Devotional Guides

The Spring Devotion guides for April, May and June are available to be picked up at church.

Large print Christ in Our Home

Available at church. Ask Pastor Abbott.



VBS

St Matthew will be hosting 2008 Vacation Bible School this summer June 16 – 20 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Participating churches will include St Matthew (Sandy Hill), Immanuel (Wiedeville), Zion (Zionsville), St John (Prairie Hill), St Peter (Gay Hill) and Frieden's (Washington). This year's theme will be "God's Big Back Yard." Activities will include crafts, music, story-telling and games. Supper will be provided.

Participation is open to anyone from ages 2 – 13. Pastors Abbott and David Hansen of St John (Prairie Hill) will be leading adult classes. Everyone is invited!!

Registration forms for both students and volunteers are available at church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VBS needs volunteers to help in the kitchen and to help watch (eyes) for young ones running off (around) outside. And to help where needed. Please consider volunteering.

Since the theme this year is God's Big Backyard we are trying to create a "Big Backyard". The following items will be needed to go in a "Big Backyard" for

decorations. Members will be getting these things back after VBS.

Potted flowers-pots
fake trees
benches
patio set, picnic tables, patio furniture
tire swings
hammocks
lanterns or patio lights
grills
picnic blankets, baskets
sports equipment - game stuff, etc.
lawn games
sandboxes
plus any other ideas that would look good in "God's Big Backyard.

Lay Visitors – Immanuel – Delivering bulletins

Please support these disciples and our shut-ins with your prayers. Those who are serving since January:
Jerry Kieke, Doris Kramer, Fay Goodwin, Shirley Dreyer
Edna Weiss, Patty Addicks, Erline Wellmann ,
Virginia Tappe, Glenda Bradley, Anna Bosse (substitute)
Erma Luetge

Immanuel Council Highlights

Minutes: of the March meeting and financial reports for March were approved.

- **Education:** Pastor and Pauline Hodges reported on progress for Vacation Bible School - June 16th to 20th
- - 6 Churches will participate. Immanuel will provide the meal for June 19 and 20. And will also provide volunteers for other tasks. Exact duties will be discussed at a meeting of all participating churches on April 27.
 - Pam Bothe has resigned as Youth Leader and will concentrate on Sunday School at Immanuel. Thanks to Pam for her work with youth.
- **Property:** Still trying to find a company to repair cracked windows
 - New bid on moving rail on curved ramp, including a bottom flat metal to prevent slipping off sides is \$2984.
 - Still waiting for a bid to strip and wax kitchen, bathrooms and Sunday School rooms
 - Janie Wellmann is not interested in maintaining the flower beds and landscaping around the church. Larry & Jerry Kieke volunteered to do upkeep and will call for volunteers to help if needed.
 - Company that bid merry-go-round is no longer in business. Pauline will get together with Pam, Sunday School parents & children for further suggestions. Merry-go-rounds are being removed from many playgrounds as too dangerous.
- **Worship:** The council voted to give a donation to guest speaker Carolyn Jacobs (\$50) and to ONE VOICE (\$75), the group that sang at the recognition service.
- **Other Business:**
 - Church secretary will be evaluated this summer
 - New software to track membership, mailing, etc. was purchased. We hope this will improve accuracy.
 - We have been invited to participate in an ELCA churchwide survey. Council will look at the survey to see if we want to participate.

St Matthew Council Highlights. April 2008

- **Minutes:** of the March meeting and financial reports for March were approved.
- **Education:** Sherry Mahlmann reported on progress for Vacation Bible School - June 16th to 20th
 - Pam Bothe has resigned as Youth Leader and will concentrate on Sunday School at Immanuel
- - 6 Churches will participate.
- **Property:** - bid accepted to remove the cedar tree near the deck in front of the church.
- - planning going forward to install additional lights along the sidewalk
- - Foundation work: If you walk around the church, beginning on the south side and go around the back you will see several places where the skim coat of mortar is coming off of the limestone foundation. We have received a bid to repair this and the bid, with pictures and drawings is in the entry way for all to look at. Having this work done would require a special meeting to approve the project, as the amount it would cost is beyond our current budget for property.
- **Worship:** The council voted to give a donation to guest speaker Carolyn Jacobs and to ONE VOICE, the group that sang at the recognition service.
- **Other Business:** The council discussed adopting a Mission Statement. We looked at statements from other Lutheran churches in the area, and will continue the discussion at the next council meeting.
 - May council meeting moved to May 15
 - Church secretary will be evaluated this summer
 - New software to track membership, mailing, etc. was purchased. We hope this will improve accuracy.